

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05371 011124Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 INR-10 EB-08  
MCE-00 /051 W

-----031465 011128Z /11

R 281430Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1988

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5371

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR TS SHUM  
SUBJ: U.S. LIGHT ARMS SALES TO TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT

REF: STATE 162259##

1. EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER WAS TELEPHONED BY FONMIN DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN EUROPE-AMERICA (MEJDOUB) ON JULY 27 ABOUT "PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN COCERNING THE FARGO COMPANY." MEJDOUB WAS RELUCTANT TO SPECIFY PROBLEM OVER TELEPHONE AND ASKED POL OFFICER TO ARRANGE EARLIEST MEETING WITH CHIEF OF AMERICAN DIVISION BEN REDJEB. BEN REDJEB LATER CALLED TO FIX AFTERNOON APPOINTMENT.
2. IN MEETING WHICH FOLLOWED BEN REDJEB SHOWED EMBOFF COPY OF JULY 26 MEMORANDUM FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH NOTED THAT GOT ORDER OF TWO SAMPLE COLT REVOLVERS FROM FARGO COMPANY HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN BY OFFICE OF MUNITIONS CONTROL BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS OFJECTIONS. MEMO STATED THAT TUNISIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON (CHARGE' TEKAIA) WAS UNINFORMED AS TO REASON FOR REFUSAL.
3. POLOFF TOLD BEN REDJEB THAT HE PERSONALLY WAS NOT AWARE OF SPACIFIC ORDER BUT THAT POSSIBLY IT WAS ONE OF THOSE  
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 05371 011124Z

REVIEWED WITH CHARGE' TEKAIA ON OR ABOUT JUNE 26.

DRAWING FROM REFTTEL POLOFF TOLD BEN REDJEB THAT EMBASSY IN TUNIS HAD BEEN INFORMED SEVERAL MUNITIONS CONTROL APPLICATIONS HAD BEEN DELAYED "BECAUSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS" AND THAT APPLICATIONS MIGHT BE RESUBMITTED AFTER NINETY DAYS. HE SAID THIS INFORMATION HAD BEEN

PROVIDED TO TEKAIA ON HR ABOUT JUNE 26. BEN REDJEB  
TOOK NOTES AND SAID THAT INFORMATION WOULD BE PASSED  
TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.

4. BEN REDJEB REFERRED TO "PUZZLEMENT WITHIN FOREIGN  
MINISTRY" THAT DEFENSE MINISTRY WOULD BE DEALING  
DIRECTLY WITH TUNISIAN EMBASSY ON MATTER AND THAT  
FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NOT PREVIOUSLY BEEN INFORMED. HE  
ALSO EXPRESSED PRIVATE IRRITATION THAT TEKAI HAD  
APPARENTLY NOT REPORTED CONVERSATION WITH TUNISIAN DESK  
OFFICER EITHER TO FOREIGN MINISTRY OR TO DEFENSE MINISTRY.

5. PLEASE ADVISE IF FARGOORDER IS NOT REPEAT NOT ONE  
OF THOSE REFERRED TO IN REFTEL.  
MULCAHY

NOTE BY OC/T: ##WRONG REFERENCE.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SALES, SMALL ARMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978TUNIS05371  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, SHUM, TS, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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